BENGALURU, SATURDAY, JUNE 29, 2024 www.Bangaloremirror.com 16 Pages PRICE ₹4

# Bangalore Mirror ON SATURDAY

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## Even as work on Kempegowda Study Centre drags on, land around construction site in Jnanabharathi campus is being used as toilet by workers who pay rent to live in sheds without basic amenities

# THE DUMPING GROUND

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

We just celebrated Kempegowda Jayanthi with fanfare. However, construction of the much-delayed Kempegowda Study Centre is progressing at a snail's pace. The study centre is being constructed at Jnanabharathi campus as per the memorandum signed between the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) and Bengaluru University signed in September 2016. As per the memorandum, the BBMP has to spend Rs 10 crore for setting up the centre.

KAUSHIK JN

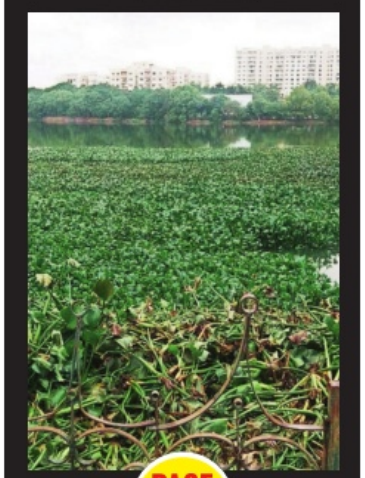
While construction of the centre has been delayed for quite some time, the vacant land around the construction site is being used as an open toilet by people residing at Jnana Ganga Nagar Gutte, in RR Nagar Assembly constituency, adjacent to the Jnanabharathi campus.

Many feel the misuse of the vacant land is an embarrassment to Kempegowda, the founder of Bengaluru, and demand that authorities concerned must ensure the land adjacent to the Kempegowda

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12 >>

## GREEN LAKE

Thick blanket of hyacinth has covered Kaikondrahalli Lake, threatening to choke all life forms inside the water body



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## 3 THINGS TO DO

### 01 Journal writing

Delve into the art of journaling with a transformative workshop on 'Joy of Journaling' by Mpower, a space for you to explore your emotions, thoughts, and behaviours. In this workshop, you will get to discover your true self, manage your emotions, gain clarity of thought, improve your decision-making, and break recurring patterns and self-limiting beliefs.
**Where: Mpower, Indiranagar**
**When: June 29, 5 to 6 pm**

### 02 Run for research

Participate in this challenge run to raise awareness about clinical research in India. The Indian Society for Clinical Research invites runners, anyone involved in the field of clinical research, and health enthusiasts to participate in 'Run4Research.' With the 3K, 5K, and 10K races, participants can choose the challenge that best fits their abilities. One can also interact with clinical research professionals and visit informational booths to learn more about clinical research and its impact on healthcare.
**Where: Atal Bihari Vajpayee Stadium, HSR Layout**
**When: June 30, 5 am to 10 am**

### 03 Artisans collection

The stage is set at 'Artisans Bazaar' for the exhibition and sale of handloom items, hosieries, and artefacts from different parts of the country. From decorative items and household items to dress materials that cater to the aesthetic needs of Bengalureans, explore and shop from multiple stalls and hundreds of varieties of items that are available under one roof. **Where: Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath; When: Until July 7**

### New branch opening

The Federal Bank branch in Srinivasa Nagar in Banashankari was inaugurated recently by TK Gopalakrishna, Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of Karnataka Housing Board, in the presence of senior bank officials.

# Post-pandemic, Bengaluru has turned health conscious

## Study shows increased interest in maintaining physical health post-pandemic; Kolkata tops list with 61% rise in fitness centre listings, followed by Delhi (44%) & Pune (37%)

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According to the data from Justdial, a hyperlocal business search engine, Benagluru's demand for fitness centre listings has increased by 36 per cent this year. Moreover, the data showed a remarkable 50 per cent growth in fitness centre listings from pre-pandemic to post-pandemic.

The growth has been higher across non-metropolitan cities compared to metropolitan cities, at 78 and 31 per cent respectively. Non-metro cities, including Jaipur, Lucknow, Howrah, and Hooghly, witnessed a phenomenal average growth of 78 per cent, signifying a growing focus on fitness options in these previously underserved markets. Among metros, Kolkata took the crown with a staggering 61 per cent rise, followed closely by Delhi, Bengaluru, and Pune with 44, 36, and 37 per cent respectively.

### Growth in specialised fitness centres

The data reveals a clear shift in gym offerings, with a move away from generic memberships and towards specialised fitness centres. Listings for callisthenics gyms, cardio fitness centres, strength training centres, and crossfit gyms have seen significant growth of 95, 103, 105, and 75 per cent respectively. This trend suggests that gyms are adapting their business models to cater to consumer preferences for targeted workout programmes that address specific fitness goals.

But fitness is no longer just about exercising. Justdial's data reveals a growing focus on holistic wellness, with a significant rise in listings for aerobic classes for cardio circuit (243 per cent) and weight management consultants (216 percent). This indicates that gyms and wellness centres are expanding their service offerings to cater to a more comprehensive approach to health that goes beyond just physical appearance.

### Demand for online health trainers

This newfound zeal for fitness has also encouraged businesses to take their offerings online, as per Justdial's data. It reveals that listings for online personal trainers have shot up by 102 per cent, while online yoga classes and zumba classes have witnessed a surge of 110 and 134 per cent, respectively. This trend reflects a continued preference for convenience and accessibility, a trend likely fueled by the pandemic's impact on workout routines.

'Businesses are adapting their offerings to cater to the growing demand for diverse and accessible fitness options'

While major cities like Delhi, Mumbai, Pune, and Bengaluru boast a higher concentration of fitness centres per capita, Hyderabad stands out with a surprisingly high number of fitness centres compared to its population, and even cities like Kolkata and Ahmedabad are witnessing a rise in options. This suggests a burgeoning fitness culture across the country, with tier-II cities rapidly bridging the gap with their metro counterparts.

Businesses are adapting their offerings to cater to the growing demand for diverse and accessible fitness options. Justdial's data paints a clear picture of a booming fitness industry in India, and further expansion can be expected, catering to the evolving needs of a health-conscious population.

# Eyesore turned into green haven

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A piece of government land that had been encroached upon and filled with debris for nearly a decade has been transformed into a thriving green space. This reclaimed land now hosts over 2,000 trees, creating a flourishing environment.

The land in question, previously an eyesore and a dumping ground for debris, was under the jurisdiction of the Mandur panchayat. For eight to ten years, it suffered from illegal encroachment, turning into a neglected area devoid of any greenery. The initiative to reclaim and revitalise this space was spearheaded by Manjunath, the former executive officer of the panchayat, in collaboration with the Mahadevpura Task Force.

"The transformation of this land from a dumping ground to a green haven is a testament to what community effort and dedication can achieve. We joined hands with the panchayat to clean up the area and make it a space that the entire community can be proud of," said Clement Jayakumar from the Mahadevpura Task Force. In 2021, a major cleanup operation was undertaken. The debris was cleared, and the encroached land was reclaimed. A portion of this reclaimed land was used for constructing the taluk panchayat office, providing a much-needed administrative space for local governance. Surrounding this office, over 2,000 trees were planted, marking the beginning of a green revolution in the area.

Initially, the panchayat took on the responsibility of nurturing these saplings, ensuring they received adequate water and care. As time passed and the trees began to establish themselves, the area has now started to sustain its own growth. This green space has not only improved the local environment but has also become a sanctuary for various birds and insects, enhancing the area's biodiversity. "The sight of birds chirping and insects buzzing around is a clear indication of how this green space has become a thriving habitat. It's heartening to see how nature has reclaimed its space once given the chance," locals said.

This initiative was part of a broader effort to reclaim and restore encroached government lands across Mahadevpura. Several similar projects have been initiated, aiming to transform neglected spaces into green zones that benefit both the environment and the local community.

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LAKE- DESPAIR

# Hyacinth blooms, but all else chokes

## Locals alarmed by dense weed growth in Kaikondrahalli Lake, fear for aquatic life

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The thick blanket of hyacinth covering Kaikondrahalli Lake

Kaikondrahalli Lake, situated in South Bengaluru, now resembles a lush green carpet as it is overrun with a dense layer of hyacinth. As a crucial water body in the region, residents are increasingly concerned about its poor and deteriorating condition. They urge authorities to promptly clear the invasive weed. Locals fear that if left unchecked, this fast-growing weed could soon suffocate all aquatic life, including fish.

"The lake has been in disarray for years due to sewage and untreated water discharge, fostering the growth of this invasive plant that now blankets more than half of the water surface," said a regular walker at Kaikondrahalli.

According to Kislay Komal, a resident of the area, this is the first time that Kaikondrahalli Lake has landed in this situation. Locals stress that it is time for the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) to rejuvenate the lake.

"We have been living in the area for the past few years and we have never witnessed such extensive weed growth before. If it is not cleared soon, the entire surface of the lake will be covered, resulting in a complete cutoff of oxygen and sunlight for fish. The water body is in a bad shape and needs complete revival," said Komal.

> **"If the hyacinth is not cleared soon, the entire surface of the lake will be covered, resulting in a complete cutoff of oxygen and sunlight for fish** –Kislay Komal, resident

Officials from the Lake Department of BBMP informed BM that although improvement work is ongoing, there are no plans to rejuvenate the lake.

The department is currently constructing a diversion channel to prevent untreated sewage from entering the water body. Officials mention that although the lake underwent rejuvenation a few years ago with a diversion channel built at one end, unprecedented development in the area has resulted in increased sewage discharge.

"BBMP had created one diversion drain when Kaikondarahalli Lake was rejuvenated nearly ten years ago. However, the area has undergone a series of developments since then and a considerable amount of sewage has started to ingress through the new inlet. We are in the process of creating a diversion channel for this inlet," said an official from BBMP's Lake Department.

The department is also considering constructing a new fence around the water body.

"The old fence has sunk and collapsed at multiple points. We are installing a new fence. Kaikondrahalli lake will also get a wetland, which will further improve the water quality. However, we will not carry out desilting. Any sludge accumulation that we will come across during the desilting process will be thoroughly cleaned," said the official.

# Kodigehalli seeks lasting fix for worn roads

## Residents frustrated by road conditions, potholes persist despite quick-fixes for drainage by officials

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TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

Roads in Kodigehalli show extensive deterioration and potholes

Residents of Kodigehalli are expressing frustration due to the deteriorating condition of their roads, which have remained in disrepair since November 2022. The situation arose when the civic body started digging the roads to install underground drainage pipes and broadband cables. Despite multiple attempts at temporary fixes, the majority of the roads remain riddled with potholes, causing ongoing inconvenience for residents.

Members of the Kodigehalli Rising group, a local community organisation, have been actively voicing their concerns about the issue. "For over a year, we've been grappling with these deteriorating roads. They've dug and re-dug them multiple times. The gravel laid down last week isn't a lasting solution, we need the entire road to be completely re-laid."

The stretch of road in question spans approximately 100-200 meters, running from Kodigehalli Main Road to the entrance of Sadaramangala Lake. This route holds critical importance as it serves as a direct path to the underpass near Hoodi Railway Station, a vital gateway to Hoodi Circle and ITPL, a prominent technology hub. Given that hundreds of commuters rely on this route daily, the poor condition of the road poses significant inconvenience and safety risks.

The residents added, "Simply patching with gravel isn't sufficient. The road remains riddled with potholes, posing dangers, especially for two-wheeler riders. A comprehensive re-laying of the entire road is essential for a lasting solution, temporary patchwork won't suffice in the long term."

The poor road conditions have not only been inconvenient but have also posed significant safety risks. "Every day, we see people struggling to navigate these potholes. It's only a matter of time before a serious accident happens. The persistent rain during the monsoon season has exacerbated the problem, turning the potholes into muddy traps," said a resident.

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### Footpath danger
**Lalbagh**

A footpath is severely damaged, posing a safety hazard for pedestrians who are compelled to use the main road, increasing the risk of accidents in the vicinity of Lalbagh Main Gate.

### Garbage pile-up
**RT Nagar**

Garbage has been piling up for ten days on Athmananda Colony Main Road and 5th Cross, RT Nagar. Residents are dumping waste under the transformer, worsening the road and footpath conditions.

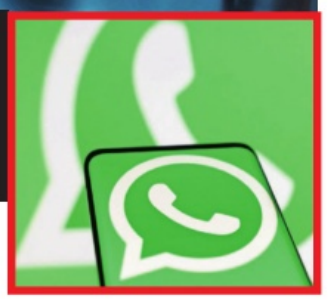
### Noise disturbance
**Domlur**

The unauthorised operation of a vehicle service center in Domlur Layout, 7th Cross has caused disturbances. No action was taken despite complaints to the BBMP, leading to noise pollution and obstruction of roads.

# Clone con on your phone

## Police issue WhatsApp hijacking alert after cases of accounts being hijacked to defraud contacts emerge

Fraudsters employ various tactics to deceive their targets, such as tricking them into disclosing WhatsApp verification codes, clicking on malicious links, or scanning QR codes



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Cybercrime police have issued a warning about a new scheme where scammers hijack WhatsApp accounts to defraud individuals listed in the contacts. This alert follows a surge in reported cases. Recently, Rishi (name changed) sent some money via UPI without hesitation upon receiving a message on WhatsApp from his friend claiming a medical emergency and an urgent need for money. However, he later discovered that the recipient was not his friend but a cybercriminal. Rishi is not alone in falling victim to this scam. Police have received many complaints related to cyber fraud, with a significant portion involving WhatsApp account hijacking.

### How does this happen?

Cybercrime officers have elucidated the techniques used by fraudsters to gain unauthorised access to WhatsApp accounts. These criminals often masquerade as bank executives or representatives from online shopping platforms. They employ various tactics to deceive their targets, such as tricking them into disclosing WhatsApp verification codes, clicking on malicious links, or persuading them to scan QR codes. Once the victim falls for these ploys, their WhatsApp account becomes linked to the perpetrator, enabling them to take control.

The process of WhatsApp installation typically involves receiving a six-digit verification code via SMS or phone call. Fraudsters exploit this by stealing the one-time password (OTP) through SMS interception, call manipulation, SMS forwarding, or remote access applications. They misuse both SMS and call-based activation methods to hijack WhatsApp accounts, allowing them to execute a range of cybercrimes using social engineering techniques over calls or SMS.

Police sources said that one prevalent method used in these scams involves fraudsters contacting victims and engaging them in conversation about a trending topic while simultaneously initiating WhatsApp registration for the victim's number. The fraudster opts for the call-based WhatsApp activation option, prompting the victim to merge the call under false pretences. During this call, which is a verification call from WhatsApp containing the OTP, the fraudster convinces the victim to disclose the OTP. By entering the OTP into their own device, the fraudster gains control of the victim's WhatsApp account, causing the victim to be logged out.

A police official said, "Another approach seen in these scams is where the fraudster directly asks the victim for the OTP, citing various reasons. Unaware of the implications, the victim shares the OTP, believing it to be innocuous, thereby compromising their WhatsApp account. In some cases, fraudsters deliberately exhaust the OTP entry limit to freeze the victim's WhatsApp account for a specified period, preventing the victim from accessing their account during that time."

## HC extends order restraining CID from arresting BSY

The Karnataka High Court on Friday extended by two weeks its interim order restraining the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) from arresting former Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa in connection with a case registered against him under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

The bench of Justice Krishna S Dixit continued its June 14 order, as it permitted the prosecution to file its objections to the petition filed by Yediyurappa seeking quashing of the case. The Special Public Prosecutor sought time to file objections and maintained that Yediyurappa's petition may not survive as a chargesheet has already been filed. The court then said, "Call these matters the week after next at the request of the learned Special Public Prosecutor to file a statement of objections, if any. The interim order granted earlier will continue until the next date of hearing."

The CID on Thursday filed a chargesheet at Fast Track Court 1 against Yediyurappa and three of his aides in connection with the case based on a complaint by the mother of a 17-year-old girl who alleged that he sexually assaulted her daughter during a meeting on February 2 this year at his residence. The CID has alleged that the accused paid money to the alleged victim and her mother to buy their silence. Yediyurappa has been charged under Section 8 (punishment for sexual assault) of the POCSO Act and Sections 354A (sexual harassment), 204 (destruction of document or electronic record to prevent its production as evidence), and 214 (offering gift or restoration of property in consideration of screening offender) of the IPC. –PTI

# State asks Centre to grant approval for Metro 3rd phase

## Karnataka government seeks green light on B'luru Metro 3rd phase while advocating for key projects to boost water supply, airport logistics, and highway enhancements

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The State Government of Karnataka is actively pursuing approvals for two critical phases of the Bangalore Metro Rail project, urging the Central Government to expedite the process. Phase three, with an estimated cost of Rs 15,611 crore, has received approval from the Public Investment Board and awaits final clearance from the Union Urban Development Ministry. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah emphasized the project's significance and the readiness of all required documentation for Central Government review following a meeting and subsequent recommendation in May 2024.

Simultaneously, Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) has submitted the detailed project report (DPR) for Phase 3A, the Hebbal-Sarjapur metro line, to the state government. This 37 km corridor, estimated at Rs 28,405 crore, includes 17 stations, 11 elevated, and 6 underground. The increased cost per kilometer, now Rs 768 crore for Phase 3A, has sparked concerns compared to previous phases (Rs 334.11 crore in Phase 1, Rs 408.93 crore in Phase 2, and Rs 254.13 crore in Phases 2A and 2B). Despite the state government's approval, final clearance from the Central Government is pending, which includes potential modifications suggested during review.

The project's timeline hinges on Central Government approval, with BMRCL projecting completion within a year thereafter. Key interchanges are planned at Ibblur, Dairy Circle, KR Circle, and Hebbal, crucial nodes for urban connectivity. Notably, land acquisition costs of Rs 9,950 crore constitute a significant portion of Phase 3A's expenses, shared between the state and central governments. The ongoing negotiation and approval process underscore the challenges and complexities in executing large-scale urban infrastructure projects amidst rising costs and logistical intricacies.

### Mekedatu project

The Karnataka state government seeks Central Government approval for two key projects: the Mekedatu drinking water project for Bangalore and surrounding areas, and the development of Bangalore International Airport into an Air Cargo Complex to stimulate exports. The Mekedatu project, aimed at providing 67 TMC of water, has been pending since 2018 and requires Union Environment Ministry clearance. The airport proposal, submitted in June 2024, aims to bolster economic growth through enhanced export infrastructure.

### NH issues

The Chief Minister highlighted the urgent need to resolve issues concerning the declaration of 39 'in-principle approved roads' as National Highways, totaling 5225 kilometers. He emphasized redirecting focus towards upgrading state highways with traffic volumes exceeding

**Siddaramaiah highlights urgent need to resolve issues concerning the declaration of 39 'in-principle approved roads'**

10,000 PCU/day to enhance transportation efficiency and reduce congestion. Specific proposals include a tunnel on NH-75 to improve Mangaluru-Bengaluru connectivity, benefiting economic growth. Additionally, plans for a flyover at Manipal Hospital junction on NH-275 and nine grade separators along NH-275K in Mysore Ring Road aim to alleviate urban traffic congestion. Siddaramaiah stressed these projects' importance for Karnataka's infrastructure development and economic prosperity.

### Elevated corridor

Siddaramaiah further emphasised infrastructure improvements, including an elevated corridor in Belagavi City along the old NH-4 (Pune-Bangalore Section) and the introduction of a cable car service for Gokak Falls in Belagavi District. Enhancing roads connecting Kittur town to Bailhongal town in Belagavi District, alongside constructing bypasses for Kalburgi and Raichur, are crucial for regional connectivity. "Moreover, widening the Belur-Chikkamagaluru Section on NH-373 to four lanes and undertaking one-time improvements on NH-150A within Challakere town limits are vital for enhancing traffic flow and safety," he added. Siddaramaiah stressed the importance of widening NH-766 (Old NH-212) to four or six lanes from Kerala/Karnataka border to Kollegal via Gundlupet, Nanjangud, and Mysuru, and upgrading in-principle approved state roads to National Highways to meet growing transportation demands efficiently. These proposals aim to address critical infrastructure needs, support economic development, and improve connectivity across Karnataka, enhancing the overall quality of transportation and facilitating smoother movement of goods and people throughout the region.

## Surge in Bengaluru's job market

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TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

Bangalore is witnessing a remarkable surge in job opportunities, particularly in technology and engineering sectors. Notably, Machine Learning Engineer roles have skyrocketed by 101 per cent year-over-year (YoY), cementing the city's status as a premier hub for advanced tech jobs.

The demand for skilled professionals in Bangalore extends beyond machine learning. HR Generalist positions have surged by 53 per cent YoY, while Operations Manager roles have seen a 45 per cent YoY increase. Full Stack Data Scientists are also in high demand, with a notable 36 per cent YoY rise in job openings. Moreover, there's a 22 per cent YoY increase in opportunities for seasoned professionals with over 16 years of experience, highlighting the city's need for industry veterans.

These trends aren't confined to Bangalore alone. Across major Indian cities, there's a significant uptick in job openings compared to last year. Hyderabad, for instance, has experienced a 64 per cent YoY increase in Full Stack Data Scientist roles and a 52 per cent YoY growth in Operations Manager positions, indicating robust demand in these fields. Mumbai's job market is thriving as well, with a 53 per cent YoY rise in demand for Company Secretaries and Compliance Officers. Full Stack Data Scientist roles have increased by 38 per cent YoY, while Customer Service positions and Billing and Planning Engineer roles have surged by 46 per cent YoY and 35 per cent YoY respectively. These statistics underscore the diverse employment opportunities available in Mumbai.

Delhi/NCR is also showing steady growth across various job roles. Operations Manager positions have grown by 49 per cent YoY, Construction and Site Supervisor roles by 42 per cent YoY, and demand for Data Warehouse Architects and Consultants has risen by 40 per cent YoY. Additionally, there's a 33 per cent YoY increase in Procurement and Purchase Engineering roles.

# HC denies mandate for Kannada use in govt correspondence

## Ruling emphasises promotion of Kannada while upholding bilingual necessity; decision follows CM's call for a 'Kannada atmosphere'

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On Friday, the Karnataka High Court refused to allow a public interest litigation (PIL) that sought directions for government correspondence at all levels to be conducted in the Kannada language. A division bench of Chief Justice NV Anjaria and Justice KV Aravinda, while hearing the PIL filed by Gurunath Vadde, stated that there is no universal formula for using one language in government affairs.

"The Kannada language, which is the local language in the state, must be promoted and given importance. However, that alone does not justify entertaining the present public interest litigation by directing the government and its officials to use the Kannada language," the court said.

The petitioner's counsel argued that since residents of the state residing in rural areas only understand and communicate in Kannada, they should be allowed to communicate with government officials in Kannada when receiving letters from the government, as they otherwise face difficulties.

On the other hand, the government's counsel submitted that there is already extensive usage of Kannada in governmental affairs, correspondence, and other communications. "Wherever necessary, the use of the English language alongside Kannada cannot be discontinued. There cannot be a universal formula as to whether one language should exclusively be used in governmental affairs," the court said.

Before disposing of the petition, the court also expressed hope that the government and its officers would strive to use the Kannada language to the fullest extent possible to uphold the culture and language of the people of Karnataka.

It is noteworthy that this observation comes only a week after Chief Minister Siddaramaiah stated that people residing in the state should learn Kannada and emphasised the need to create a "Kannada atmosphere."

# 11 tiger deaths recorded since Jan this year

## No unnatural deaths, says forest dept, but activists worry cases may have gone unreported

Officials say tiger mortality rate is always in their radar

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

**Around five camera traps, installed by the department in Nagarhole Tiger Reserve have gone missing**

Over the last three-and-a-half years, Karnataka has lost 57 tigers. Of these, 11 deaths have been recorded since January this year, according to data from the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA). The 11 deaths include seven adults and sub-adults, one cub, and two undetermined. Last year, eight deaths were reported in the given period (January to June).

Officials from Karnataka Forest Department say the number is not alarming as no unnatural deaths have been recorded so far. Protection levels in tiger reserves in Karnataka are up to the mark and poaching camps are active. Officials say tiger mortality rate is always in their radar and a thorough analysis will be taken up only if it goes up by more than 25% by the end of the year.

"Eleven deaths is not big, especially when not even a single case of poaching or unnatural deaths has been reported. The major causes behind tigers' mortality are territorial fights or old age. Tigers' deaths become concerning when they happen due to electrocution, poison, or gunshots. As far as a comparison from last year's data is concerned, animal mortality cannot be a perfect graph," said Kumar Pushkar, additional principal chief conservator of forests (wildlife), KFD.

As per NTCA's mortality data, in 2023, Karnataka had recorded 12 tiger deaths. In 2022, 18 big cats died over 12 months and in 2021 15 tiger deaths were recorded.

However, conservationists allege while some unnatural deaths have taken place in some tiger reserves over the past few months, they have gone unreported. Some also point to recent thefts of camera traps suspecting involvement of poachers. Around six camera traps, installed by the department for the recent survey of big cats in Nagarhole Tiger Reserve, went missing.

### Poaching concerns

"Big cats across multiple tiger reserves in Karnataka have been poached, but these deaths are never on record. In certain areas, tigers have disappeared. Since the carcass is not found, it is difficult to prove this illegal activity. Theft of camera traps is a matter of grave concern. Poachers steal the cameras and get valuable information on tigers' location and movement," said Joseph Hoover, former State Board of Wildlife member and founder of the United Conservation Movement and Charitable Trust.

KFD officials admitted to theft of camera traps, but refuted involvement of poachers. "More often than not, cameras are taken away by tribal out of curiosity. We lodged FIRs but police could not recover them," said a KFD official.

# 13, including 8 women & 2 children, killed in Haveri road accident

At least 13 people were killed, including eight women and two children, after a tempo traveller rammed into a parked truck in Haveri on Friday.

The incident took place near Gundenahalli Cross on the Bengaluru-Pune National Highway.

The deceased were identified as Parashuram (45), Bhagya (40), Nagesha (50), Vishalakshi (50), Subhadra Bai (65), Punya (50), Manjula Bai (57), Adarsh (23), Manasa (24), Rupa (40), and Manjula (50).

Two children, aged four and six years, also died in the incident. Four other persons are in serious condition and are being treated at the hospital.

Police said that the deceased hailed from Emmehatti village near Bhadravathi town in Shivamogga district. One of the deceased, Adarsh, had purchased a tempo traveller vehicle, and his family, relatives, and friends had gone to Tiwari Lakshmi Temple in Maharashtra and performed a special worship ceremony for the new vehicle. They later visited Tulja Bhavani Temple and then the famous Renuka Yellamma Temple in Saundatti Yellamma, Belagavi.

The incident occurred while they were returning to their native place from Belagavi.

The initial investigation suspects that the driver could not see the parked truck on the side of the road due to mist and rammed into it. The police also suspect that the driver may have dozed off. Haveri SP Anshu Kumar said that there were over 15 persons in the tempo traveller vehicle and the accident took place while they were returning to their home. "The bodies have been shifted to the Haveri District Hospital mortuary. The incident took place within the Byadagi police station limits," Haveri SP said. —PTI

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# BENGALURU SPEAKS

and gets heard on this page

## STORYBEHINDTHEPHOTO

### 'BEEING' AROUND

A bee found collecting nectar from a flower at Byrasandra Lake.

The picture was clicked by BM reader **Vijita Asher**

If you have a picture and a story to share, send us the picture with your name and number at **mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com**

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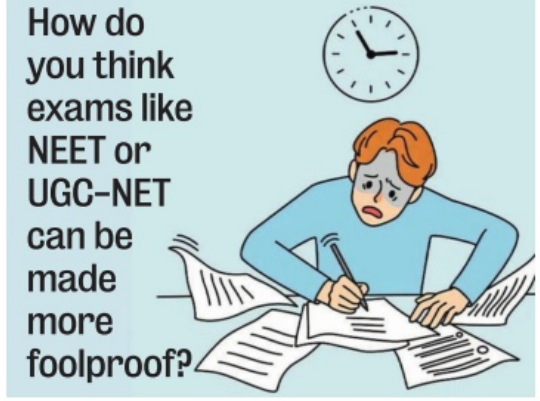
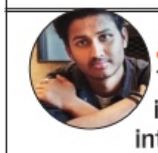


**Marina Sarah, BM Reader**
Security measures such as biometric verification and secure paper distribution, combined with technological integration like using blockchain for results, psychometric analysis, and regular audits, can these exams more foolproof.

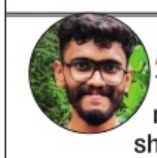
**Lidiya Mary, BM Reader**
To make NEET and UGC-NET more foolproof, we can enhance security with secure exam materials and biometric verification, enforce strict penalties for cheating, educate examiners on security and ethics.



**Jay Vardhan, BM Reader**
To make the exams more foolproof, implement real-time tracking, limit internet access during exams, and use advanced MCQs. Increase anonymous data sharing and improve the scoring system with detailed, tech-based analysis.

**Hariharan, BM Reader**
To enhance the integrity of NEET and UGC-NET exams, replacing the OMR-based format with computer-based tests is crucial. This change would prevent issues like grace marks due to torn question papers and time loss.

**Badhri, BM Reader**
Since 2017, the National Testing Agency has taken on more exams, leading to resource constraints and potential errors. A solution would be to decentralise and have each institution conduct its exams separately.



**Alex Cyriac, BM Reader**
To make NEET and UGC-NET exams more foolproof, I believe they should be conducted by more reliable bodies like the UPSC, which has a better track record of minimizing malpractices.

**SPEAK TO US**

What's your favourite pastime during rainy afternoons?

If you want to be featured in this section, mail us your answer to this question, in 25 words, with 'Tap The Chatter' in the subject line. Mail us with your name, occupation & a picture at mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com or WhatsApp us on 9591233247

# Citizens fear closure of road

## Concerns rise over closure of vital route amid suburban railway project, impacting daily life and emergency services in the neighbourhood

Sridhar Vivan
sridhar.vivan@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @sridharvMirror

The residents of Sri Balaji Signature, Geddalahalli, on Hennur-Bagalur Road, are deeply concerned that their sole access road might be blocked if the Bengaluru Suburban railway line project proceeds. Girish, a resident of the area, expressed his concerns, stating, "The road that runs parallel to the existing twin tracks is our only access route to reach our apartments. When we purchased our houses, we were informed that the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) would develop this road. However, now K-Ride is installing stone markers indicating that the railway property includes this road. There are indications that this road might be utilized for laying new railway tracks as part of the proposed suburban network. Since there are no other roads connecting to our area, we would be left without access to the outside world if this happens."

Another resident shared, "The railways have prominently displayed a board announcing the closure of this road for new tracks as part of the suburban railway expansion. Unfortunately, there are no alternative passages or roads available for the entire locality, leaving us isolated. Moreover, this road lacks proper street lighting and has unfortunately turned into a dumping yard for garbage. Despite our efforts to seek clarification from K-Ride officials, there has been no progress or response. In light of these challenges, MLA Byrati Basavaraj has visited our area twice and has pledged his commitment to resolve this issue."

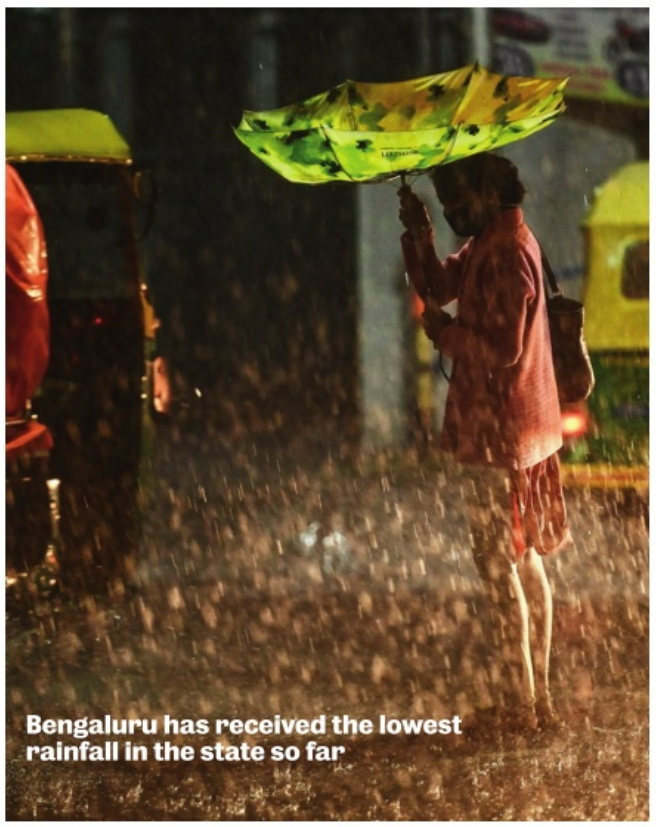
Hennur-Bagalur Road

Another resident expressed concern, stating, "Once this approach road is closed due to the railway expansion, we will have no direct access to the main road. The closure would necessitate taking a significant detour of 2-3 kilometres to reach the nearest alternative route, significantly impacting our daily commute and travel convenience. This road closure not only affects our access to essential services but also adds considerable travel time and inconvenience for residents, particularly during emergencies or urgent situations."

Residents of the area fear that the closure of this vital approach road could lead to increased traffic congestion and safety hazards due to the longer detour route, which may not be well-equipped to handle the additional traffic load.

# Big rain coming in the coast

## Met dept issues warning, tells fishermen not to enter sea



Bengaluru has received the lowest rainfall in the state so far

Owing to heavy rains in the coastal regions of Karnataka, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued warning for fishermen till after Saturday.

Stating that squally weather with wind speed of 35 kmph to 45 kmph, gusting to 55 kmph, is likely to prevail till June 29, the IMD reiterated its warning to fishermen, asking them not to enter the sea.

It has also issued high wave alerts for the coast of Dakshina Kannada (Mulki to Mangalore) Udupi (Baindur to Kapu) and Uttara Kannada (Majali to Bhatkal). With high waves in the range of 2.9 m to 3. 7m till June 29, the Met centre advised caution while doing marine operations and nearshore recreations.

Stating that waterlogging and flooding of low-lying areas as well as mudslides and rock falls are possible, it has warned people to avoid areas prone to flash floods and be prepared for power outages and traffic disruptions.

### Light rain in B'luru

According to its report, Bengaluru is likely to receive very light rain, with temperatures varying from 26.4 degrees Celsius to 21.3 degrees Celsius on Saturday.

In Karnataka, Agumbe has received the highest rainfall at 81.5 mm on June 27 and Bengaluru city the lowest at 0.1mm.

### Good inflow

Meanwhile, Bengaluru's water expert and one of the founders of Biome Trust, S Vishwanath, who tracks the reservoir inflow on 'X' has pointed out that there has been a good inflow in Kaveri basin.

"Kabini roars in," he posted on the social media on June 27 from his handle @zenrainman. He had also observed earlier that Kabini will be the first reservoir to fill up as it's a small reservoir with a large rainy catchment area.

As per Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre, as on June 28, water inflow to Kabini stands at 20,113 cusecs.

Another 'X' user, who too tracks weather in the state through his handle Namma Karnataka Weather (@namma_vjy) has pointed out that the water level has started receding in Bhagamandala Triveni Sangama.

"Intensity of rain has reduced all across Kodagu and repo areas in north Kerala. Big rains are again possible during the next surge in July. So the next few days are likely to provide light to moderate showers across Kodagu," he posted on 'X'. **PTI**

# Plan to seek rollback of ban on biodegradable bags

The Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) has sent a proposal to the Urban Development Department to withdraw the notification on plastic ban issued by the Karnataka Government in 2016, a source in the environment ministry said. As per the notification, compostable or biodegradable bags are banned in Karnataka.

The decision to withdraw the 2016 ban was taken by the Board in a meeting chaired by Karnataka Forest Minister Eshwar B Khandre on Friday.

In the meeting, while the Minister said single-use plastic that does not get dissolved in water, and pollutes the atmosphere if burnt is harmful to the environment, bringing in biodegradable products as an alternative to SUP bags is the need of the hour.

"Based on suggestions given by the Minister, a proposal has been sent by KSPCB's Member Secretary to UDD to withdraw the plastic ban notification issued by the government in 2016," said a source from the state Environment Ministry. The idea behind the proposal is to allow the manufacturing and sale of biodegradable bags that can be composted within 180 days.

"The 2016 notification hampers the manufacture, stock, and sale of biodegradable bags. If the proposal goes through, the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) certified compostable plastic bags will be permitted in Karnataka as well. These bags made up of corn extracts are compostable within 180 days," said the source. **BMB**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# Chikkaballapur: Bengaluru's new property hotspot

Bengaluru's north is experiencing significant growth since the airport moved from HAL to Devanahalli, driving a surge in real estate around Chikkaballapur and attracting many buyers from the city due to promising future returns on investment in the sector. Many Bengalureans now see Chikkaballapur as a promising investment due to its proximity to Bangalore, lower property prices, and appeal to those seeking a quieter environment near the city with good commuting options.

Ramesh B, a software engineer from Bengaluru said, "I was looking for a place where

I could build a holiday home for my family and Chikkaballapur seemed perfect as it offers beautiful surroundings and is not too far from Bangalore. The reasonable property prices here also suggest significant future appreciation in value," he said.

Sanjay Kumar, a realtor, talks about the future growth of Chikkaballapur. "In the past year alone, inquiries from Bengaluru residents about Chikkaballapur plots have surged by 30%. Rapid local development, including new infrastructure like improved roads and upcoming commercial hubs, is driving this demand. Government initiatives, such as the Peripheral Ring Road and Namma Metro extension to Kempegowda International Airport, are further bolstering investor confidence by enhancing connectivity. These projects will improve Bengaluru-Chikkaballapur connectivity, making it attractive for homebuyers and investors," he said.

**–Prakash VL**

# Farmland generates high profit for investors

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Ajay Sharma, a financial advisor, said, "Farmlands are a tangible asset that provides a hedge against inflation. They offer consistent returns, especially with the growing demand for organic and locally sourced food. Sandalwood farming offers significant potential due to its high market value and limited supply in India. Investing in sandalwood farms can yield substantial returns after trees mature, usually within 15 to 20 years. With proper care, a single acre can generate returns in crores, making it an excellent investment for future financial security. Government incentives for agro-forestry and sustainable farming practices enhance the appeal of investing in farmland. State subsidies, technical support, and tax benefits reduce risk and increase profitability in cultivating sandalwood and other valuable crops."

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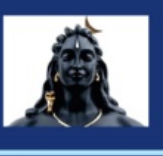

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# Campus is no space to do one's business

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Study Centre is free from open defecation.

## Living in sheds

Temporary sheds have been constructed at the vacant sites at Jnana Ganga Nagar Gutte and these are rented out to labourers from Raichur and other districts of the state. Shockingly, some of these vacant sites, on which the sheds have been put up, belong to professors working with Bangalore University. It is said that each migrant family has to pay Rs 2,000 to Rs 3,000 towards monthly rent. Around 60 migrant families have been residing here.

Some site owners are repenting their decision to have built homes here. "The scene of women and men in groups jumping the broken compound wall to enter the vacant land on Jnanabharathi campus to attend nature's call is quite disturbing. We have no other option to cope with the odour from the open space," said Vijayalakshmi, a house owner.

Jnana Ganga Nagar Gutte is considered a vote bank for politicians. "Though some site owners have constructed permanent structures, the locality has no proper road and basic amenities. The migrant workers are using the vacant land as an open toilet. Women enter the land in groups while men proceed towards the other end to attend nature's call," said Raju, a resident of the area.

Basavaraju, one of the tenants, told BM he and the others have no option than using the space as a toilet. "I have been residing here for the last 10 years. I pay Rs 2,000 as a rent for the shelter. It would be good if the authorities construct a public toilet here," said Basavaraj. It is said women go to the vacant land in groups as they are scared of snakes. "It is scary to go to the land that is full of weeds. People here kill snakes frequently," said a homemaker.

When BM informed the state of affairs here to RR Nagar MLA Muniratna, he told us that no funds are available for the construction of public toilets here. "I have requested the Deputy Chief Minister to allocate funds for Kempegowda Study Centre and the construction of toilets for the benefit of migrant workers but it has not worked out," said Muniratna.

Though some miscreants broke the compound wall constructed by Bangalore University, the University authorities did not get it fixed. "It is the responsibility of Bangalore University to protect its land from encroachers," said a area resident.

Bangalore University Vice Chancellor Dr Jayakar Shetty SM said that he would look into the matter. "I will instruct my subordinates to visit the spot and revert to me," the Vice Chancellor said.

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## personal

### CHANGE OF NAME

**I,** V Vibinchander S/o Venkatasubramanian R/o A-003, Royal Fountain Square, Royal layout, DRDO Ph-2, Kaggadasapura, B'luru 560093 have changed my name to Venkat Vibichandar Venkatasubramanian Affidavit Dt.28/06/2024 notary Harisha G, B'luru

**I,** LIKHITH RAM, Residing at No. 15-57, Baragoor Pet, Anekal Town, Bengaluru Rural-562106, Karnataka, have changed my name to LIKHITH RAM KODANDARAMA, vide affidavit dated: 26.06.2024 before advocate and notary V. RAJASHEKHARA, Bengaluru.

**I,** M S JAYALAKSHMAMMA, Residing at No. 62, 1st main, Jayalakshmipuram, Mysore - 570012, My name is recorded as to M S JAYALAKSHMI in sale deed, both the names are mine. vide affidavit dated 13/06/2024 sworn before Notary Aravind Patil G.G Bangalore

**I,** Jayanth V R/o No.303, C-block, Indburgh Serenity Apt, Mallathahalli, NGEF Lyt, B'luru 560056 have changed my minor son name from Paarth Jayanth to Paarth Jayanth Kotian Affidavit Dt.28/06/2024 notary Harisha G, B'luru

**I** Tarun Kumar S/O, Bhanwar Lal Kalal R/o D-2126 Block D2 Assetz 63 Degree East, Surbey No 69/1 69/2 69/3, Kodathi Village, Carmelaram Post, Bengaluru - 560035 have changed my name to Tarun Kumar Kalal.

**I** Pandurang Singri S/o Vithalasa R/o #109 1st Main judicial Layout Phase-2 Thalag -hattapura Kanakapura Road B'luru-560062 have changed my name to Pandurang Vithalasa Singri for all Purposes.

**I** Kedar S/o Mangaraj Rout, R/o No 102, Suryavamshi Layout, Nagenahalli, Yelahanka, Bengaluru - 560064.Have Changed my name from Kedar to Niranjan Rout all purposes.

**I,MOSHI** Dayan Nagendra Rao S/o Nagendra Rao Rama Rao R/o #203 ,2nd Floor Sri sai Sudarshan Nivas Ananth Nagar Phase-2 B'luru-560100 have changed my name to Moshi Dayan for all purposes.

**I,** Jayalakshmi Sridhar W/o Vinay Kumar S R/o 254/1 Byrappa Block Thygarajanagar B'luru-560028 have changed my name to Jayalakshmi Maduranath for all purposes.

**I,** Pushpadevi S W/o B K Kailasanatha R/o #19 2nd main Rd Dsouzanagar Hosakerehalli B'lore-560085 have changed my name to B K Pushpavathi.

### LOST & FOUND

**ದಾಖಲೆ ಕಳೆದಿದೆ**

ಗುಲ್ಜಾರ್ ಕೋಂ ಲೇ ಗೌಸ್ ಪೀರ್ ಆದ ನಾನು ತುಮಕೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ತುರುವೇಕೆರೆ ತಾಲೂಕಿನ ಮಾಯಸಂದ್ರ ಹೋಬಳಿಯ ಜನಾರ್ಧನಪುರ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ವಾಸಿಯಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಇದೇ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಸರ್ವೆ ನಂ.411ರಲ್ಲಿನ ಸೈಟ್ ನಂ.99ರ ಹಕ್ಕುಪತ್ರದ ಮೂಲ ಪ್ರತಿ 10.06.2024ರಂದು ತುರುವೇಕೆರೆಯಿಂದ ಮಾಯಸಂದ್ರಕ್ಕೆ ಬಸ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಯಾಣಿಸುವಾಗ ಆಕಸ್ಮಿಕವಾಗಿ ಕಳೆದುಹೋಗಿದೆ. ಈ ಸಂಬಂಧ ತುರುವೇಕೆರೆ ಪೊಲೀಸ್ ಠಾಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ 18.06.2024ರಂದು ದೂರು (ಎಲ್‌ಆರ್ ನಂ.1104195/2024) ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿರುತ್ತೇನೆ. ಸದರಿ ಪತ್ರದ ಮೂಲ ಪ್ರತಿ ಯಾರಿಗಾದರೂ ಸಿಕ್ಕಲ್ಲಿ ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡ ವಿಳಾಸ ಅಥವಾ ಮೊಬೈಲ್ 6366062596 ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ಕರೆ ಮಾಡುವಂತೆ ಕೋರಲಾಗಿದೆ.

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**# Zac, Nicole together after 12 years**

Zac Efron and Nicole Kidman have reunited for the romantic comedy 'A Family Affair'. It's been 12 years since they first collaborated in 'The Paperboy', reported People

SANDALWOOD SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

## A love story

The trailer of Kaagada was released on Tuesday at SRV Theatre. The movie is based on a love story in a village during the pre-smartphone era. The movie is set to arrive in theatres on July 5.

Arun Kumar, who supported Vinod Prabhakar-starrer Rugged, is the producer for Kaagada. Aditya and Ankita Jayaram are the lead pair in the movie.

It is director Ranjith's second movie after the film Apple Cake. "The story of Kaagada is based on a love affair between a boy and a girl belonging to two warring villages. The incident took place in 2005 and there were no mobile phones at that time. Many people, including actors Dhruva Sarja, Ramesh Aravind, Anu Prabhakar, and director AP Arjun, appreciated the quality of the movie's trailer," said Ranjith.

On the occasion, producer Arun Kumar said he has been waiting to bankroll a movie based on Hindu-Muslim love story for quite some time. "I was waiting for a director to narrate such stories. Finally, Ranjith approached me to narrate the script and has succeeded in convincing me. The movie has no discrimination between the communities. It gives importance to humanity. My son Aditya debuts as a hero in Sandalwood with this movie," said Arun Kumar.

The movie features Aditya, Ankita Jayaram, Neha Patil, Bala Rajwadi, Ninasam Ashwath, Shivamanju, Gautham, and Mata Koppala.

## Game of cricket

Bhavana Ramanna, who has been associated with Sandalwood, politics and cultural events in the state for many years, has agreed to be a brand ambassador for KMH Cup Cricket Tournament that is to be organised by Karnataka Film Colors and Hairstyle Artists Association. Bhavana played a key role in organising Hamsageethe, a classical dance programme, at Chowdiah Memorial Hall on January 30.

The cricket tournament is scheduled for July 20 and 21. "I am very happy to be part of the team that is organising a cricket tournament for artists and technicians. I still remember Venkatesh who worked as a makeup artist for me when I made my debut in Sandalwood. I have been recommending producers and directors to engage members of this association as makeup and hairstyle artists," said Bhavana.

Stressing on the need to organise such events, Bhavana said actors get more opportunities to participate in cricket tournaments, but makeup artists rarely get an opportunity to do that. "This tournament is being organised by the makeup artists for the first time. I wish the organisers of this tournament the best," she said.

Later, Bhavana released the logo of the tournament. Dharmendra, president, and Dinesh Achar, secretary of Karnataka Film Colors and Hairstyle Artists Association were present on the occasion. The cricket tournament will be held at BGS Playground, Vijayanagar between 8 am and 8 pm. The winning team will get a cash prize of Rs 49,999, runners up Rs 24,999.

# Healthy talk

## Samantha admits to making 'mistakes in the past'

Actress Samantha Ruth Prabhu in her podcast discussed the importance of eating healthy and avoiding certain types of foods and beverages.

In the episode of 'Take 20', Samantha along with lifestyle and wellness expert Alkesh Sharotri discussed the importance of eating healthy. However, a comment by a user caught Samantha's attention.

A viewer commented about Samantha promoting healthy foods on the podcast while endorsing unhealthy brands herself. However, the actress acknowledged the comment with honesty.

She said: "I have made mistakes in the past when I didn't know any better, but I have stopped accepting many many endorsements. I believe in practising what I preach. God bless." Samantha, who had shared that she had been diagnosed with an autoimmune condition called Myositis in 2022, made her debut with the Telugu film 'Ye Maaya Chesave' in 2010. After which, she was seen in films such as 'Neethaane En Ponvasantham' and 'Eega'.

She was then seen in films such as 'Dookudu', 'Seethamma Vakitlo Sirimalle Chettu', 'Attarintiki Daredi', 'Kaththi', 'Theri', '24', 'Mersal', 'Rangasthalam', 'A Aa' 'Mahanati', 'Super Deluxe', 'Majili', 'Shakuntalam' and 'Kushi'. She made her series debut with 'The Family Man'.

On the occasion of her birthday in April, Samantha announced her maiden Telugu film tentatively titled 'Bangaram' under her production banner Tralala Moving Pictures.

Samantha had shared a quirky motion poster and captioned: "Not everything has glitter to be golden... Starting soon."

The upcoming film marks Samantha's feature film debut as a producer. It will have the actress playing the lead protagonist. The film is expected to have a multilingual release. Other details about the film are still under wraps. However, it is reported that the movie will make its way into the theatres in 2025.' — IANS

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## 'If there is a good news, I shall share it'

After weeks of pregnancy rumours surrounding Katrina Kaif, Vicky Kaushal mentioned at the trailer launch of his upcoming film 'Bad Newz' that he will personally announce any 'good news' to the media at the appropriate moment.

When asked about the timing of sharing his 'good news,' Vicky said he would inform the media first when it arrives. For now, he suggested enjoying the 'Bad Newz' and assured that when the time comes for the 'good news,' they wouldn't hesitate to share it.

Speculation began after photos and videos from Katrina, Vicky's London trip surfaced online. — ETimes

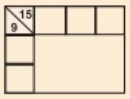
mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com
facebook.com/theBangaloremirror
@BangaloreMirror


## SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

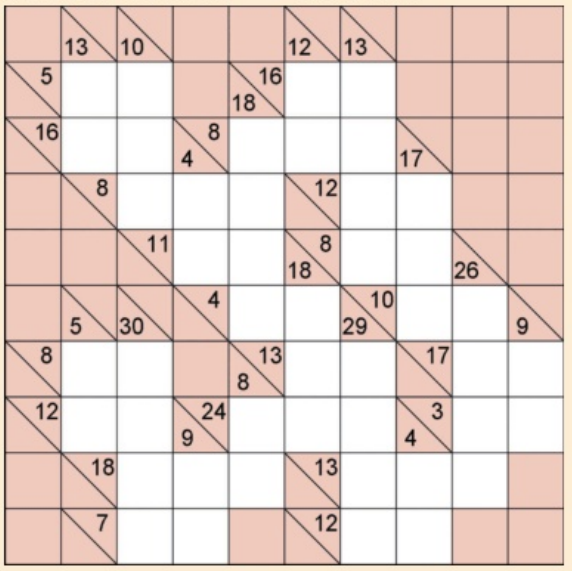
$2\times(1/8)^{3}\div(\sqrt[3]{512})=?$

## Kakuro

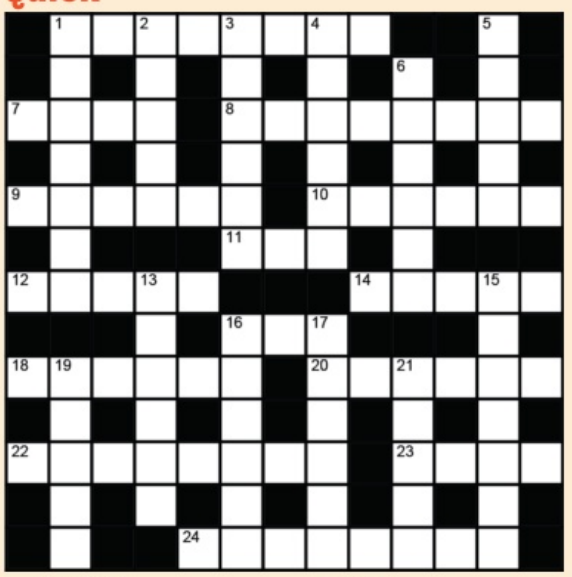
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



## Quick



**ACROSS**

1 Diminishes gradually (8)
7 Italian volcano (4)
8 Famous battle (8)
9 Shudder of excitement (6)
10 Decaying, fetid or spoiled (6)
11 ___ out : make living or support with difficulty? (3)
12 Smell (5)
14 Wide or dense (5)
16 Female fowl (3)
18 Awkward (6)
20 __ __ show : a solo effort ? (3-3)
22 Australian state (8)
23 Official obligation (4)
24 Fixed in something solid (8)

**DOWN**

1 Thrown overboard, cast off or discarded (7)
2 India's cricket trophy (5)
3 Be slow and waste time (6)
4 Complete; whole (6)
5 Old Greek coins (5)
6 Eat noisily? (6)
13 Famous landmark on the corner of Kasturba road and Vittal Mallya Road (2,4)
15 Chewed the fat (7)
16 Gandhiji's last words (3,3)
17 Period of immaturity (6)
19 Set in rows (5)
21 Concluded (5)

## Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

**Today's CLUE: D EQUALS T**

DIJ LBS DF MJNFPJ EGNI GH DF QZD BUU SFZE JKKH GV FVJ MBHCJD BVW DIJV LBDNI DIBD MBHCJD.

## Linemaro

Your hand looks heavy let me hold it for you

## Mindchow

Life is like photography; we develop from the negatives

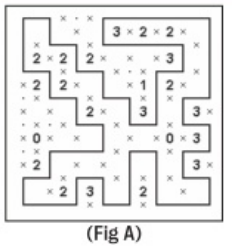
## Joke of the day

Husband: You know, I was a fool when I married you
Wife: Yes, dear, but I was in love and didn't notice

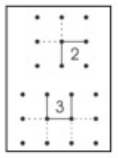
## Loop

### Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

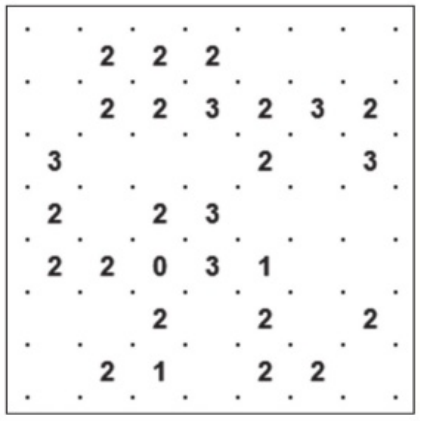


(Fig B) Not Allowed

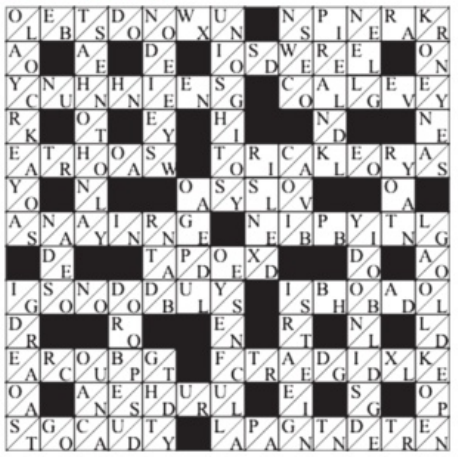
### How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



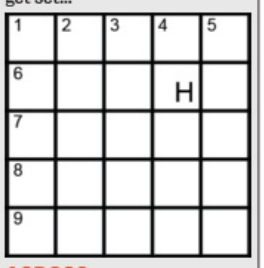
## Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

## Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...




**ACROSS**

1 Swots; 6 Teach;
7 Re tut; 8 Of rye;
9 Lu fly

**DOWN**

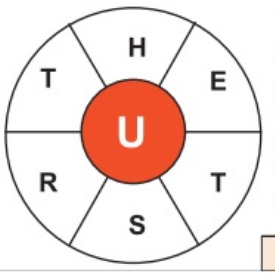
1 Tuffs; 2 A tout;
3 Cytol; 4 Wee HL;
5 Yes RR

## Mensapuzzle

What number should replace the question?

12
3 7 3
4 1 4 1 4
1 2 2 5 2 2 1
1 1 1 1 ? 1 1 1 1

## Bull's eye




How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

14 Average; 16 Good; 18 Outstanding

## SudokuChallenge

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | 1 | | | | 8 | 4 | | |
| 4 | | | | | | | 2 | |
| | | 3 | 6 | | 9 | | | |
| 6 | | | 8 | | | | 9 | |
| | 8 | 1 | 9 | | 2 | 7 | 6 | |
| | 9 | | | | 3 | | | 2 |
| | | | 4 | | 7 | 2 | | |
| | 7 | | | | | | | 3 |
| | | 8 | 5 | | | | 1 | 7 |

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

## Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 17
3 3 5 6

Medium = 12
2 3 4 4

Hard = 18
5 7 9 7

## Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

**Differences:** 1. Rag is smaller. 2. Window is different. 3. Lapel is missing. 4. Man is thinner. 5. Light is smaller. 6. Vacuum handle is longer.

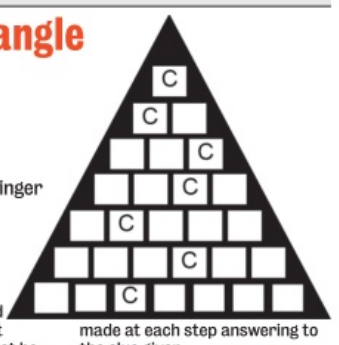
## Riddler

What does this rebus represent?

mon g.k niye

## Alpha triangle

1 Third letter
2 Calcium symbol
3 Part of a circle
4 Go fast
5 Frighten
6 Cup companion
7 One pointing the finger

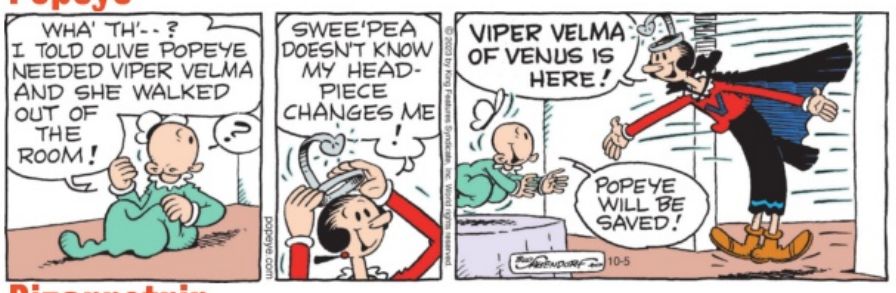



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.


DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

# COMICS

## Popeye


WHA' TH'--?
I TOLD OLIVE POPEYE NEEDED VIPER VELMA AND SHE WALKED OUT OF THE ROOM!
SWEE'PEA DOESN'T KNOW MY HEAD-PIECE CHANGES ME!
VIPER VELMA OF VENUS IS HERE!
POPEYE WILL BE SAVED!
10-5

## Bizarrotrip

## Diamond Lil

## Hart of the city

## Crankshaft

ARE YOU STILL DOING ALL OF THOSE EXERCISES THE DOCTORS GAVE YOU WHEN YOU LEFT THE HOSPITAL?
ABSOLUTELY!
I WORK OUT EVERY DAY AS IF THERE'S NO TOMORROW!
ALTHOUGH... IF THERE'S NO TOMORROW...
3-27
BATIUK & DAVIS tombatiuk.com/books

## Mutts

# WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

**Aries** Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you may be busy at work; with the help of your strong network, you may be able to implement your plans successfully. Your wisdom may help you gain profits from past investments. You may enjoy your romantic moments with your spouse, which will increase harmony in your domestic life. Lovebirds may enjoy their happy moments.

**Taurus** Apr 21 – May 20
Today, you may make decisions very quickly, which may have benefits in your day-to-day life. You may also plan for higher studies to grow your career. You may also be busy with your kids. Property-related disputes between siblings are likely to be resolved. You may also expect some work-related short trips.

**Gemini** May 21 – Jun 21
Today is not a good day for you. You may feel unhappy, or you may be dissatisfied with your current situation. You are advised to keep your patience and not to take any decisions in a hurry. You are also advised to take care of your parents.

**Cancer** Jun 22 – July 23
Today, you are blessed by the moon; the last couple of days of disappointment may now convert into happiness. You may enjoy your professional and personal life, and your network may help you complete your postponed projects. You may likely start some new venture with the help of your siblings, and your network may support you in every step of this journey.

**Leo** Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you are advised to control your straightforwardness; otherwise, it may affect people around you. You may spend your hard-earned money on buying some worthless stuff. Your mind may likely work very fast, so it is advised to make any important decision with patience.

**Virgo** Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you may be able to complete a difficult task very easily, and that may boost your confidence level. Your past investments may have yielded good gains. You are advised to avoid arguments on worthless topics; it may waste your precious time.

**Libra** Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, you may feel dull. You may have some health issues. You are advised to postpone making investments in the business. It is also advised not to start a new venture, as you are likely to face losses in the business. Your gains may also likely be converted into losses.

**Scorpio** Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, you are blessed by the moon, which may make you happy. Yesterday's crunch is now over. With the help of blessings, you may get reciprocation for your hard work. With the help of your subordinates, you may be able to initiate your postponed work. There are some gains in your business that may boost your finances.

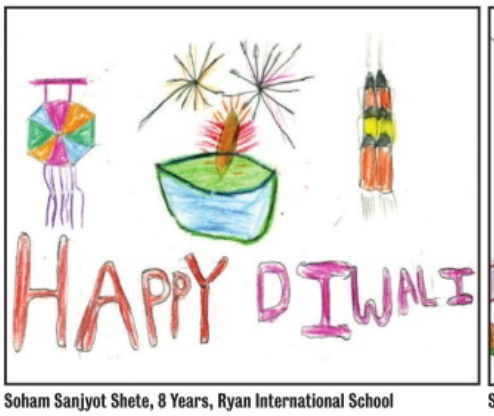
**Sagittarius** Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, you may be more enthusiastic. Your performance at work may be good, it may boost your terms with seniors, and you may be likely to get some new responsibilities in terms of promotions. In legal matters, you may hear good news. Your opponents and hidden enemies may be under control.

**Capricorn** Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, your destiny may help you achieve success in an easy way. You may likely visit some religious place to seek peace in your mind. You may spend your time earning some intellectual or occult knowledge. Students are likely to do better. Singles are likely to find a good match. Lovebirds may make some important decisions in terms of marriage.

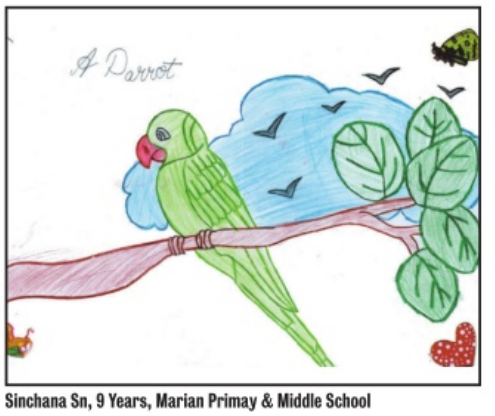
**Aquarius** Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, you may feel dull, you may have some health issues, and old debts may make you upset. You will be a victim of self-criticism. You will feel guilty for silly mistakes as well. It is advised to avoid adventure tours and rush-hour driving. Your stubbornness may create some issues in your personal life.

**Pisces** Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, you will be happy. You may feel peace in your mind. Your focus on your goals would be very good. You may have a romantic moment with your spouse, and your bonding with your spouse may be stronger now. You will also be busy with other domestic issues.

## KIDZONE




Soham Sanjyot Shete, 8 Years, Ryan International School




Sinchana Sn, 9 Years, Marian Primay & Middle School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

## SOLUTIONS

**SOLVE IN 1M**
= (2*8)^3 ÷ (512)^1/3
= (2^1*2^9) ÷ (2^9)^1/3
= (2^10) ÷ (2^3)
= 2^7 =128

**RIDDLER**
Monkeying around

**STRIKE OUT**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| L | E | T | D | O | W | N | S | P | E | A | K | | | |
| A | E | D | | I | S | E | R | E | | N | | | | |
| C | U | N | N | I | N | G | | C | A | L | V | E | | |
| K | | T | E | | H | | | N | | E | | | | |
| E | T | H | O | S | | T | I | C | K | E | R | S | | |
| Y | | L | | O | S | L | O | | | O | | | | |
| S | A | Y | I | N | G | | E | B | B | I | N | G | | |
| | D | | A | P | E | X | | D | | A | | | | |
| G | O | O | D | B | U | Y | | S | H | O | A | L | | |
| R | | O | | E | | T | | L | | L | | | | |
| E | R | U | P | T | | F | R | A | G | I | L | E | | |
| A | N | E | H | R | U | | I | | S | | O | | | |
| T | O | A | D | Y | | L | A | N | T | E | R | N | | |

**QUICK**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | N | | E | M | B | E | D | D | E | D | | | |
| | | | Y | | A | | G | | E | | | | | |
| V | I | C | T | O | R | I | A | | D | U | T | Y | | |
| | L | | I | | Y | | N | | N | | T | | | |
| G | A | U | C | H | E | | O | N | E | M | A | N | | |
| | | B | | H | E | N | | | | | H | | | |
| O | O | O | U | R | | T | H | I | C | K | | | | |
| | | | E | | E | K | E | | C | | | | | |
| T | H | R | I | L | L | | R | A | N | C | I | D | | |
| | C | | N | | D | | I | | U | | L | | | |
| E | T | N | A | | W | A | T | E | R | L | O | O | | |
| | U | | N | | G | | C | A | L | V | E | | | |
| I | | R | | A | | N | | C | | B | | | | |
| D | W | I | N | D | L | E | S | | S | P | E | A | K | |

**MENSA PUZZLE**
8 should replace the question mark. The sum of numbers increase by 1 in each successive row.

**BULL'S EYE**
hunt, ruse, rush, rust, shut, SHUTTER, strut, trust, truth, user, thus, true, truest, suet, sure, thrust, usher, utter

**SUDOKU**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | 4 | 8 | 5 | 3 | 6 | 9 | 1 | 7 |
| 9 | 7 | 5 | 2 | 8 | 1 | 6 | 4 | 3 |
| 1 | 3 | 6 | 4 | 9 | 7 | 2 | 5 | 8 |
| 7 | 9 | 4 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 8 | 2 |
| 3 | 8 | 1 | 9 | 5 | 2 | 7 | 6 | 4 |
| 6 | 5 | 2 | 8 | 7 | 4 | 3 | 9 | 1 |
| 8 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 4 | 9 | 1 | 7 | 5 |
| 4 | 6 | 7 | 3 | 1 | 5 | 8 | 2 | 9 |
| 5 | 1 | 9 | 7 | 2 | 8 | 4 | 3 | 6 |

**ALPHA TRIANGLE**
C, Ca, Arc, Race, Scare, Saucer, Accuser.

**GO FIGURE**
Easy
5 + 3 + 6 + 3 = 17
2 x 4 - 4 x 3 = 12
Medium
9 - 5 + 7 + 7 = 18
Hard

**LOOP**

**KAKURO**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 7 | 6 | 1 | | | 9 | 3 |
| | 7 | 9 | 8 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 7 |
| 4 | 8 | 1 | 9 | 7 | 8 | 6 | 2 | 9 |
| 1 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 9 | 7 | 8 |
| 2 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 8 | 6 | 2 | 9 | 7 |
| 9 | 6 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 8 | 6 |
| 8 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 9 | 1 | 7 | 5 | |
| 6 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 9 | 8 | | |
| 3 | 9 | 7 | 8 | 2 | 6 | | | |

**FAST FIVE**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| S | T | O | W | S |
| T | A | C | H | E |
| U | T | T | E | R |
| F | O | Y | E | R |
| F | U | L | L | Y |

**QUOTE UNCODE**
The way to become rich is to put all your eggs in one basket and then watch that basket.

Volume No 17, Issue No 026 RNI NO:KARENG/2007/22411 Published for the Proprietors, Metropolitan Media Company Ltd by R.J. Prakashan at No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011 and printed by him at Bennett Coleman & Co Ltd., The Times of India Press, No. 9/10/11-A, 4th Main, KIADB Bommasandra Industrial Area, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore - 560 099 (Phones : Press : 080-22899999; Editorial : 080-40877666, Fax – 40877545, Registered Office: No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru - 560 011, Email : mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com Editor : Ms. Seena Menon - responsible for selection of news under PRB Act. © Reproduction in whole or in part without the written permission of the Publisher is prohibited.

SAMSUNG

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Circle to Search
with Google

# Galaxy S24 Ultra

**STEPS TO EXPERIENCE**

1. **Scan** the QR code
2. **Hold** camera over the ad
3. **Circle** an object to start the experience

Please dispose of e-waste and plastic waste responsibly. Customers can WhatsApp on 1800 5 7267864 for information on e-waste/plastic waste.

Image simulated for representational purposes, actual may vary. S Pen embedded in Galaxy S24 Ultra. Circle to Search results may vary depending on visual matches. Google is a trademark of Google LLC. Compatible devices and internet connection required. Works on compatible apps and surfaces. Results may vary depending on visual matches. Users may need to update Android to the latest version. Product functionality may be dependent on your app and device settings. Some functions may not be compatible with certain apps. Availability of the service varies by country and language. Accuracy of results is not guaranteed. Samsung account login is required for certain AI features.

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